GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5492
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
IMPORT-EXPORT POLICY ON FOOD ITEMS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present import-export policy on food items;

(b) whether the Indian farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce due to excessive import of food items; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) : The detailed item-wise policy for import and export is available in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items, 2004-09.

Imports are regulated through adjustments in Customs Tariff within the bound rates. This mechanism has been effectively used in case of edible oil, coconut, tea, coffee, pepper, skimmed milk powder, poultry products etc. In cases of prices falling below the specified levels, the Government undertakes procurement operations, to ensure that farmers interest are protected. Imports are also regulated through the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Meat Food Product Order, Packaging requirements, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary(SPS) measures etc. The import of 300 sensitive items including major food items is being monitored on a regular basis by the Government for checking any surge in imports.